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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,478	10/23/2003	Jerry Hodak	030469	2528
7590	04/08/2005			EXAMINER
Michael G. Panian, Esq. One Oxford Centre 20th Floor 301 Grant Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219			PRINCE, FRED G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	
DATE MAILED: 04/08/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

91 1D

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/693,478	HODAK, JERRY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Fred Prince	1724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 15 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 16-17 and 19-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 15 and 18 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Marbach.

Marbach teaches a faceplate (6) having an outer periphery (Fig. 3), an inner periphery (11), means for securing the faceplate to a pool sidewall (col. 3, lines 46-50), a first arm (top wall 14) projecting toward the skimmer housing, a second arm perpendicular thereto (rear wall 14), and a third arm (support means near bottom 15; col. 4, lines 26-31) perpendicular to the second arm projecting away from the skimmer housing (Fig. 2).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed February 22, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Marbach does not teach or suggest a faceplate of the conventional skimmer which is used on pools that require winterizing as disclosed and

claimed in the present application. However, it is noted that applicant does not claim a "conventional" skimmer requiring "winterizing". Accordingly, as applicant is arguing a limitation not claimed, the argument fails to patentably distinguish the over the prior art.

Applicant argues that element 15 is well past the faceplate opening of the skimmer. However, it is noted that the element 15 is integrally connected to the faceplate. Further, it is noted that applicant makes no claim regarding a desired proximity of the support means to the faceplate opening. Accordingly, as applicant is arguing limitations not claimed, the argument fails to patentably distinguish the over the prior art.

Applicant argues that one element cannot be perpendicular to itself. However, it is noted that the examiner has not indicated that the element is perpendicular to itself, but, rather, the elements has arms which are perpendicular to each other. Accordingly, the argument fails to patentably distinguish the over the prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-14 are allowed.
5. Claims 16-17 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Prince whose telephone number is (571) 272-1165. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00; alt. Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Fred Prince
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

fgp
4/5/05